

	<b>DHS Head Start Program Policy</b>		
<b>HEALTH 5</b>			
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Oral Health and Education		
<b>REFERENCE</b>	Comprehensive Health Services		
<b>EFFECTIVE</b>	4/10/2012		
<b>Policy Council Approval: 7/25/17</b>	<b>Policy Council Revision: 4/23/19</b>	<b>Governing Body Approval: 9/28/17</b>	<b>Governing Body Revision: 5/23/19</b>
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**Policy:**

Education Service Providers will ensure children brush their teeth once a day during program hours.

The Education Service Providers will develop and implement procedures to ensure educational oral health activities are provided and tooth-brushing is included in the classroom daily schedule.

At a minimum, procedures must include:

**Tooth-Brushing:**

- Staff must promote effective dental hygiene among children at least once daily.
- Staff or volunteers, if applicable must assist children in brushing their teeth using fluoride toothpaste.
- Non-fluoride toothpaste may be used upon request due to medical or other personal reasons.
- [A system to document a parent/guardian’s request for their child not to participate in toothbrushing](#)

**Sanitation:**

- Tables should be clean and free of food debris.
- Toothpaste should not be put directly on a toothbrush and/or a non-disposable surface, such as a table or tray.
- Toothbrushes should be thoroughly rinsed after tooth-brushing.

**Measures to prevent cross contamination:**

- Toothbrushes should be labeled with the child’s name and stored upright, in an air-dried covered position, and with no part of one toothbrush touching another toothbrush.

**Additional guidelines:**

- Children should spit out excess toothpaste after brushing. At least one staff member should supervise proper tooth brushing techniques.
- A child's toothbrush may be discarded and replaced when requested by a parent/guardian due to illness or other personal reasons.
- Toothbrushes should be replaced every 3 to 4 months or sooner if the bristles become splayed or worn.

**Cavity Free Kids:**

Education Service Providers must include the Cavity Free Kids Curriculum in lesson plans according to the following schedule:

- Unit 1: Let's Clean Our Teeth- throughout the program year.
- Unit 2: Get a Dental Checkup- August and September.
- An additional unit of choice or program that addresses dental health may be included during the month of February, National Children's Dental Health Month.

**Performance Standard:**

1302.43

**Reference:**

[CFOC Standards Database | National Resource Center \(nrckids.org\)](https://www.nrckids.org/)